



HHSS Plan in Action

This is an example of how our state pandemic flu plan would work if there's human-to-human transmission of a new deadly virus. The responses here are based on the given scenarios. In real life, things could happen very differently. It could be worse, it could be better. We won't know until it happens.

What happens in Nebraska if...

The United States has a confirmed case of pandemic flu (human-to-human transmission).

Response:

- Issue state public health alert.
- Ramp up surveillance (data from doctor's offices, hospitals, schools, labs and travel histories).
- Activate the Health Alert Network and send message telling all Nebraska healthcare providers, health departments and hospitals what signs and symptoms to watch out for and to report anything suspicious.
- Work with the media to get preparedness and personal protection messages out to Nebraskans.
- Activate HHSS pandemic flu hotline and special web pages.
- Tell Nebraskans to watch their children and family members for signs and symptoms of pandemic flu. If they think that they or a family member might have pandemic flu, they should call their healthcare provider.
- Pull together government pandemic flu groups along with healthcare providers, businesses and schools to discuss situation and decide next steps. Identify who will receive vaccine and antivirals, if available.
- Survey pharmacies to see how much antiviral medication is on hand.
- If vaccine is available, begin vaccinating Nebraskans.

Pandemic flu outbreaks are in surrounding states.

Response:

- Surveillance is on-going.
- Limit activities to those considered essential (i.e. school, grocery shopping, medical visits, work).
- Discuss closing public activities (i.e. athletic events, concerts).
- Continue to work with media to get preparedness and protection information to Nebraskans.
- Monitor illnesses and deaths in other states and nationally.

Nebraska has one confirmed case of pandemic flu.

Response:

- Person with pandemic flu would be hospitalized, isolated and receive antiviral medication.
- Governor declares public health emergency.
- Continue discussions about public closures.
- Work closely with medical community to identify new cases and spread of disease.
- Voluntary quarantine for people exposed.
- Encourage members of the business community to activate pandemic plans.
- Keep Nebraskans informed of new developments through the media and HHSS website, continue personal preparedness/protection messages.

Nebraska has several cases of pandemic flu.

Response:

- Work with local health departments to contain outbreaks.
- Issue voluntary restrictions on activities and travel.
- Recommend school and business closures.
- Recommend people work from home and stay home.
- Request federal stockpile of medical equipment and medicine.

Nebraska has a large amount of sick people and numerous deaths.

This is the point where government resources and the hospitals would be strained or overwhelmed... that is why planning and partnership is crucial at a local level. This is where Nebraskans would need to take care of each other in their own communities.